

6 January 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Messrs. Moose and Lowenstein,
5 January 1972.

1. The 90 minute session was almost entirely devoted to a standard intelligence appraisal of the situation in Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia. On Laos, I discussed the build-up of Communist forces in northern Laos including the introduction of 130mm artillery, the current tactical situation at Long Tieng, the prospect for Long Tieng in the coming weeks (taking the position that the odds favor the Communists overrunning it this year, although the outcome is far from certain), and the political and military consequences if Long Tieng falls.

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4. On Thailand itself, Moose and Lowenstein showed little interest in recent internal political developments. They pressed fairly hard on the insurgency, but seemed satisfied with my assertions that the insurgency was being supported by Peking, and that it was growing more serious

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On Cambodia, Moose has the idea that there may be some differences of opinion in the intelligence community regarding the number of Khmer Communist troops. I tried to convince him that the real problem was inadequate intelligence, which could only be rectified by an increased US presence in Cambodia--something which nobody really wanted.

5. As usual, Moose and Lowenstein were cordial throughout and respected my demurrals when they moved into areas about which I could not or did not want to comment.

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Chief, Southeast Asia Branch
Office of Current Intelligence

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Mr. Lehmann
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
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